

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 20, 30 and 33 have been revised. Support for the revision can be found at, e.g., Fig. 6 and page 14 of the specification, among other places. Claims 20-37 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 20, 30 and 33 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 20, 30 and 33 have been revised to address the issues. Support for the revision can be found at, e.g., Fig. 6 and page 14 of the specification, among other places. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 20, 23-30, 33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bouchard et al. (US 6108995). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 20 requires a left supporting slope and a right supporting slope each including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface. This arrangement allows a projecting portion formed by the two upper slope portions to be engaged with a downward-flared shaped recess of the upper analogous block when the block is engaged with the upper analogous block to form the wall.

Bouchard et al. fail to teach or suggest a left supporting slope and a right supporting slope each including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface as required by claim 20. In stead, the block of Bouchard et al. has a tongue 15, a foot surface 22 on one side of the tongue 15 and a perpendicular rear surface 11 with a sharp angle bottom on the other side of the tongue 15 (see Bouchard et al., Fig. 2). This arrangement is completely distinct from the block of claim 20. It merely provides a

function of one-side leak proof but has disadvantages as mentioned in the Background of the present specification and the arguments presented in the Amendment filed September 18, 2009.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 20 is not anticipated by Bouchard et al. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is patentable over the cited reference. Claims 23-29 depend ultimately from claim 20 and are patentable along with claim 20 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Claims 30 and 33 and, their respective dependent claims are patentable over Bouchard et al for at least the similar foregoing reasons. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 30-33 and 37 are rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Dwyer et al. (US 1686270) in view of any one of Bouchard et al., Hancock (US 3355849), Steinhage et al. (US 2550945), or Sill (US 2074813). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 30 requires a left supporting slope and a right supporting slope each including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface. This arrangement allows a projecting portion formed by the two upper slope portions to be engaged with a downward-flared shaped recess of the upper analogous block when the block is engaged with the upper analogous block to form the wall.

As acknowledged in the rejection, Dwyer et al. fail to teach or suggest a right supporting slope including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface as required by claim 30. Rather, Dwyer et al. merely discuss a triangular-shaped rib 13 that engages with the groove 11 of a similar shape so as to realize a good interlocked engagement (see Fig. 5 of Dwyer et al.).

Bouchard et al., Hancock, Steinhage et al., and Sill do not remedy the deficiencies of Dwyer et al. The feature of a left supporting slope and a right supporting slope each

including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface required by claim 30 is not seen in any of these references.

For at least the reasons above, claim 30 is patentable over Dwyer et al. in view of Bouchard et al., Hancock, Steinhage et al., and Sill. Claims 31-32 depend ultimately from claim 30 and are patentable along with claim 30 and need not be separately distinguished at this time.

Claims 33 includes similar features as claim 30 and is patentable over Dwyer et al. in view of Bouchard et al., Hancock, Steinhage et al., and Sill for at least the similar foregoing reasons. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 34-35 are rejected as being obvious over Gravier et al. (US 5623797) in view of Dwyer et al. or Bouchard et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 34-35 depend ultimately from claim 33 and are patentable over Dwyer et al. or Bouchard et al. for at least the same reasons discussed above. Gravier et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Dwyer et al. or Bouchard et al. Gravier et al. are completely silent as to a block having a left supporting slope and a right supporting slope each including an upper slope portion and a lower shoulder where each shoulder has a top shoulder surface, a bottom shoulder surface, and a lateral side surface as required by claim 33. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claim.

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Examiner: Jessica L. Laux

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact the undersigned attorney, Rong Yang, Limited Recognition No. L0279, at (612) 455-3816.

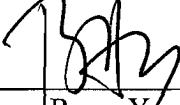
Respectfully submitted,



HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

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By: _____


Rong Yang
Limited Recognition No. L0279

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